

UCLA Faculty Association

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Friday, October 3, 2025

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 69



From the [Harvard Crimson](#): President Donald Trump told reporters on Tuesday in the Oval Office that the White House had “reached a deal” with Harvard, before cautioning that the agreement had not been finalized. “All you have to do is paper it, right” Trump asked Education Secretary Linda E. McMahon, who concurred. “It’ll be great.”

When a reporter asked for more information on the details of the deal, Trump seemed to back up, saying an agreement was not yet finalized. “We’re in the process of getting very close, Linda’s finishing up the final details, and they’d be paying about \$500 million,” Trump said. “And they’ll be

operating trade schools, and they’ll be teaching people how to do AI and lots of other things. Engines, lots of things,” he added.

A Harvard spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment...

Full story at <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/10/1/trump-says-harvard-deal/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [Harvard](#), [politics](#)

Thursday, October 2, 2025

No Rush



As blog readers will know, the Legislative Assembly had a special meeting on Tuesday to discuss some timely issues. The agenda:

The Special Business of the Occasion

- a. *Chair’s Remarks*
- b. *Member Orientation*
- c. *Shared governance*
- d. *The campus budget situation and effects on faculty*
- e. *Resolution to Request the Department of Justice Letter*

Note that there was only one action item on which a vote was to be taken, item “e.” As of 7:45 AM today on the Senate’s website, however, there is no posting about the results of that vote. Now it’s true, just given the nature of the agenda, that the probable outcome of the vote is probably what you are thinking. But why wasn’t there (isn’t there) a quick announcement of the tally?

The Senate and its processes are under criticism by the Regents for moving too slowly. The underlying issues of the special meeting revolve around the belief by the UCLA administration that the Senate is too slow to deal with the current emergency. So, again, why the delay in releasing the tally?

Posted by California Policy Issues at [7:56 AM](#) No comments:

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Letter from AAUP to UC Objecting to Trellix
- Judge rules Trump demands of UCLA must be made public
- Faculty are fighting back
- Faculty Lawsuit Demands Public Access to Trump Administration’s Settlement Demands on University of California
- Coalition of UC unions condemns Trump’s attacks on the UC and the California economy

Remaking the University

- [Liner Note 40. AI’s Two Pathways: 2025 Has Discredited Booster Assumptions of 2024 - 10/11/2025](#)
- [Liner Note 39. Attack Theory for Education - 9/28/2025](#)
- [Liner Note 38. The University of California’s Charlie Kirk Tribute Act - 9/16/2025](#)

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Cloudy Outlook

The UCLAAnderson Forecast met yesterday for its quarterly presentation on the economic outlook. The general forecast remains as it was back in June but with more uncertainty surrounding in particular Federal Reserve policy. AI investment - perhaps a bubble like the dot-com boom of the 1990s? - has been a significant factor in keeping the economy afloat. The labor market still has relatively low unemployment but unemployment is rising and both hiring and firing are sluggish.

Tariffs remain a potential aggravating factor for inflation but so far they have had a limited effect on prices, suggesting their full impact has not (yet?) been passed to consumers. However, inflation has ticked up above the Fed's 2%/annum target. Nonetheless, the Fed has cut interest rates.

The California outlook is summarized below:

From an Anderson/Forecast news release: *...For the California economy to grow faster than the U.S. economy, as it is accustomed to do, durable goods manufacturing — including aerospace and technology-laden sectors — will have to rebound strongly. In manufacturing, transportation equipment and related navigational equipment and semiconductors were the subsectors with the largest job losses in 2025. Aerospace should benefit from the return to normal production at Boeing and Airbus and increased emphasis on space exploration and satellite production. The recovery at Boeing is not expected to be adversely impacted by tariff-based retaliatory action by China and India in the near term, as Boeing has a 10-year backlog of aircraft orders that include many aircraft that would have been manufactured over the three years of an FAA-mandated slowdown in production. Nevertheless, California and the nation have experienced a general decline in manufacturing employment, and the timing of a turn-around in this sector remains uncertain. For technology, the issues are the issuance of a large number of H-1B visas and the rapidly changing skill set emphasizing AI development, now demanded by employers.*

Two sectors that will be impacted by deportations are food processing (non-durable goods manufacturing) and agriculture. These will be disproportionately felt in the inland parts of the state and the agricultural coastal valleys. The H-2A program is in place for the purpose of allowing U.S. companies to hire foreign nationals temporarily for agricultural work. However, there is no sign from the Trump administration to indicate that it will champion bringing in seasonal guest workers. Rather, it is believed that U.S. residents with legal status will take jobs in the fields and in the meat processing plants that are now occupied by undocumented workers. Although temporary worker visas could make up for some of the loss of labor, the visas would likely be available only to the subset of workers who are seasonal. Temporary worker programs like H2-A are designed for partial-year entry into the U.S. and not permanent entry.

The data from the past three months confirmed that the California economy has been growing slower than the U.S. in 2025, with several quarters of negative job growth. The current forecast is substantially the same as June's, with a slightly weaker 2025 and a slightly stronger 2027. A recovery in California will commence in late 2026; growth will be slightly faster in 2027. The unemployment rate is expected to hit a peak of 6.2% early next year and the average unemployment rates for 2025, 2026 and 2027 are expected to be 5.5%, 5.9% and 4.6%, respectively.

The forecast for 2025, 2026 and 2027 is for total employment growth rates to be 0.5%, 0.4% and 2.3%, while non-farm payroll jobs are expected to be -0.1%, 0.1% and 2.2% during the same three years. Real personal income is forecast to grow by 1.5% in 2025, 0.9% in 2026 and 2.7% in 2027. Higher interest rates, shortages of construction labor, and the rebuilding of damaged and destroyed homes lowered our residential construction forecast from March. The UCLA Anderson Forecast's expectation is for permitted new units to be 107,000 this year and grow to 117,000 by the end of 2027. This level of home building means that the prospect for the private sector building out of the housing affordability problem over the next three years is nil...

Full release at <https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/news-and-events/weakness-persists-us-and-california-economies-recovery-not-expected-until-2026>.

The program also had a unit on the clean air/clean trucks programs at the Ports and a tariff discussion.

You can see the Forecast conference at:



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UCLA Forecast: Fall 2025 Ec...



Or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4cceQDtkck>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 118

From the [Emory Wheel](#): *The University Senate Committee for Open Expression started an investigation into the termination of an Emory University School of Medicine faculty member on Sept. 18. Emory University terminated the professor due to social media posts that "caused concern" within the campus community, according to a statement from School of Medicine Dean Sandra Wong addressed to medical school staff. The University did not confirm the identity of the terminated professor. However, School of Medicine Associate Professor Anna Kenney posted comments on Facebook regarding the recent assassination of Charlie Kirk, a right-wing political figure, which garnered scrutiny from U.S. Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R-Wis.). The University removed Kenney's faculty profile on the School of Medicine website.*



Following the termination, University Senate President Noëlle McAfee authored an open letter on Sept. 18 requesting that the Committee for Open Expression Chair Sasha Volokh investigate the termination. The committee shared its preliminary opinion with the senate on Sept. 23, finding that the termination of the medical school professor likely violated the Open Expression Policy...*

Full story at <https://www.emorywheel.com/article/2025/09/university-senate-preliminary-investigation-finds-professor-s-termination-violated-open-expression-policy>.

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*Note: Sasha is the brother of UCLA Professor Eugene Volokh, co-founder with Eugene of the Volokh Conspiracy libertarian blog.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, Emory, politics

Can Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 68



From the [NY Times](#): *The Trump administration's move this week to choke off Harvard University's access to future federal funding came after a scathing letter from the university accusing the administration of relying on shoddy evidence to determine that the college violated civil rights laws by allowing antisemitism to persist on campus. The brewing feud represents an escalation of tensions between Harvard and the administration, which just weeks ago seemed on the verge of agreeing on a deal to keep federal funds flowing to the university.*

In a strongly worded, 163-page letter from Harvard on Sept. 19, which has not been

previously reported, the university assailed the government's findings that the college had violated federal civil rights laws. The university accused investigators at the Health and Human Services Department of relying on "inaccurate and incomplete facts," failing to meet a single legal requirement to prove discrimination and drawing sweeping conclusions from a survey of one-half of 1 percent of the student body...

The administration's reply to Harvard's letter came on Monday, when the health department initiated a process to cut off Harvard from future federal research funding, which has increasingly become the lifeblood for the nation's largest private and public colleges. In 2022, the health department accounted for nearly 82 percent of \$41.6 billion in federal funding for research into agricultural science, environmental science, public health and other life sciences, according to government records...

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/30/us/politics/harvard-response-trump.html>.

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Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [diversity](#), [Harvard](#), [health care](#), [politics](#), [public funding](#)

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Watch the Regents Afternoon Meeting of Sept. 17, 2025

We continue our coverage of the most recent Regents meetings with the afternoon of Sept. 17th. As blog readers will know, the Sept. 16-17 meetings were unusually truncated since there was no third day. This shortening meant that there were periodic references to things that would be more fully dealt with at the November meetings.

At Finance and Capital Strategies, the consent items approved included an upgrade to a power system for UCLA health. There was discussion of the state budget outlook. It was noted that the so-called "compact" expires at the end of the coming year. Of course, it is unclear that one can say the compact was actually honored, particularly by the governor. As for the feds and the conflict there, UC gets about \$17 billion in federal revenue from all sources (and UCLA gets \$2.8 billion). Enrollment is running ahead of what the compact required although the extra students are not funded. Capital spending is not getting supported by the state.

The tuition cohort plan is up for renewal in some form, although that was put off for decision in November. The proposal for its replacement on the table retains the 5% per annum cap, reduces the proportion of tuition that is recycled into student aid, contains an alternative to the Consumer Price Index as an escalator with a price index for higher ed plus 1%, with the 1% to go to capital spending and other purposes. One might have expected some pushback to be expressed to the plan but there was little discussion.

At Academic and Student Affairs, Regent Leib started with an explanation of what happened to the \$7 million that former President Drake had allocated after the disturbances began post-Oct. 7, 2023. Drake seemed to want the money to support some kinds of educational programming related to the history of the Middle East conflict, more or less similar to what occurred at some other universities, notably Dartmouth. According to Leib, however, \$5.3 million was spent on training in cooperation with Hillel, mental health, and a "climate" survey. The rest apparently has not been spent. More detail will be made public in November.

There was then discussion of programs of career paths for students in coordination with employers. They involve occupational certificates and internships. San Diego and Santa Barbara have pilot programs looking specifically at the implications of AI. There was also discussion of teacher preparation in K-12 at Riverside and Merced.

The full Board heard discussion of AI and UC partnerships with major corporations in the field. President Milliken said there would be more information in November. But there was talk about infrastructure needs, cybersecurity, training for UC employees at all levels.

The Compliance and Audit Committee approved police purchase equipment defined as military. Finally, the Governance Committee took some executive pay actions and the full Board approved the various committee reports.

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As always, we preserve recordings of Regents meetings since the Regents have no policy on duration of retention. The links are below:

Finance and Capital Strategy: <https://archive.org/download/2-board-8-30-am-9-17-2025/3-Finance%20and%20Capital%20Strategies%20Committee%209-17-2025.mp4>

Academic and Student Affairs: <https://archive.org/download/2-board-8-30-am-9-17-2025/4-Academic%20and%20Student%20Affairs%20Committee%209-17-2025.mp4>

Board and Compliance and Audit: https://archive.org/download/2-board-8-30-am-9-17-2025/5-Board%201_30%20PM%2C%20Compliance%20and%20Audit%209-17-2025.mp4

Governance and Board: <https://archive.org/download/2-board-8-30-am-9-17-2025/6-Governance%20Committee%2C%20Board%209-17-2025.mp4>

General webpage for Sept. 17: <https://archive.org/details/2-board-8-30-am-9-17-2025>

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [Dartmouth](#), [UC Regents](#), [UC-Merced](#), [UC-Riverside](#), [UC-San Diego](#), [UC-Santa Barbara](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 117

From Clarksville Now: CLARKSVILLE, TN – At [last] Thursday's Austin Peay State University Faculty Senate meeting, an unexpected resolution was proposed in response to the termination-turned-suspension of tenured theater professor Darren Michael. Michael was originally terminated for resharing a post on social media about the Charlie Kirk shooting that displayed a 2023 headline, "Charlie Kirk Says Gun Deaths 'Unfortunately' Worth it to Keep 2nd

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Contributors

- [California Policy Issues](#)
- [Toby Higbie](#)
- [UCLA Faculty Association](#)

Amendment." In response, U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn shared Michael's post, along with his university bio, and stated, "What do you say, Austin Peay State University?" tagging APSU.

Michael's status was later shifted to suspension after the administration found that it had not followed due process when firing him, specifically APSU's Policy on Academic Tenure and Termination of Faculty Members for Adequate Cause. The policy states that any termination requires convening a hearing committee with six tenured faculty members – three appointed by the Faculty Senate and three by the president.

At the Sept. 18 Faculty Senate meeting, University President Mike Licari admitted that due process had not been followed, according to member Bill Rayburn...

Full story at <https://clarksvillenow.com/local/apsu-faculty-senate-responds-to-actions-against-tenured-professor-in-charlie-kirk-case/>.



Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [academic freedom](#), [Austin Peay State U](#), [politics](#)

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